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Royal Wedding: A Mod(ern) Twist

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The *Royal Wedding* dress was designed within a 20 piece conceptual apparel line, of which three garments were constructed. The garment was designed in response to the concept of modern royalty (Prince William and Kate Middleton) being wed in a time of heightened moral and social values, harkening those of mid-century America. Therefore, the garment toes the line between tradition and modernity with a rebellious nod towards 1960's mod stylings.

Figures of modern British royalty were chosen as inspiration for the design of the *Royal Wedding* dress. Additional inspiration was drawn from Mod styles of the 1960's. Design elements such as the wide standing collar, mini skirt and extended shoulder width are combined with traditional wedding gown features including the princess panels, pointed front waistline, and the material choice of silk dupioni. The back of the garment frames an open lower back beneath a self-lined yoke. Curved complementary dupioni bands drape from the open back, and wrap diagonally around the skirt concluding at the hemline, meanwhile concealing diagonal curved skirt stylelines. An invisible side zipper and four buttons above the opening at center back serve to open the garment for donning and doffing.

The pattern was drafted through a combination of flat pattern methods, draping and custom fittings with a fit model. Numerous muslin mock-ups were developed throughout the process of draping the diagonal curving bands. Garment construction utilized numerous haute couture hand sewing techniques including thread tracing, bias basting, full self-lining, as well as traditional garment machine construction.

Author's Note: This garment was developed while both the designer and faculty mentor were present at Kansas State University, in fall 2010.

